



City of Wichita

# Wichita Police Department

Monthly Report

February 2005

## Officers learn about CP from the best

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Corporal John Sloane and Officer Amy Pitts of the North Charleston Police Department in South Carolina recently spent 10 days in Wichita learning from WPD members how to successfully implement Community Policing and practice Problem Oriented Policing.

North Charleston PD has 332 police personnel, and retired WPD Captain Jon Zumalt, is now the police chief there. He made arrangements to have his first two Neighborhood Resource Officers (NROs) learn from, in his words, "the national leaders in Community Policing and Problem Solving."

During their 10-



day stay, they teamed with beat coordinators and supervisors from different Bureaus to learn about POP projects, beat books, beat teams, and the importance of community involvement and communication.

They also got 10 years worth of experiences on what to do and what not to do when implementing a Community Policing philosophy.

Both John and Amy were surprised at the

lack of humidity as opposed to the Carolina coast. They were also impressed by WPD's professionalism, camaraderie amongst officers and supervisors and the excellent appearance of the facilities.

During the evenings, they enjoyed playing pool with officers at the Fox and the Hound, eating out with the CP East team at PF Chang's, bowling on West Street, backyard grilling at an officer's home, and an evening of western music and fun at the Prairie Rose Chuckwagon.

Thanks to all those who made them feel so welcome and shared your projects and wisdom with them.

## Training devotes time to promotional process

Training staff continued to work on the promotional process throughout the month of February.

The three interview boards were conducted

and the assessor training was increased from a one hour block to two hours this year, for all three of the boards. The final lists were posted on Feb. 15. Lt. Atteberry coordinated

with the chairperson of each board to set up a schedule for the candidates to come in and receive feedback about their interviews.



Chief Williams talks to the Lieutenant Oral Board about what the Department is looking for in its future leaders.

## Huge forgery ring busted by SCAT South and Financial Crimes

The South SCAT team developed information on a well-organized and prolific check forgery ring that was in operation throughout the South Central area of Kansas. Members of the team working on the project included Officer Drew Seiler, Officer William Crowe, Sgt. William Stevens, Officer Jesse Cornwell, Sgt. Jeff Pike, Officer Matthew Lang and Officer Chris Robinson.

The information was developed and investigation conducted between August 2004 and February 2005.

The ring was involved in a multitude of criminal activities, including the manufacture of methamphetamine, manufactured checks and ID documents, credit card fraud, larcenies to autos and buildings, burglaries to autos and buildings, auto thefts and theft of U.S. mail.

The ring leaders of this group were identified as two females and a male.

The members of the SCAT team conducted three narcotics based search warrants which

resulted in the seizure of a large amount of check and identity theft documentation and stolen U.S. mail, as well as several computers.

The SCAT team contacted the Financial Crimes section and enlisted Det. Brad Bryant's assistance who, in turn, contacted Postal Inspector Tom Pappas.

Det. Bryant and P. I. Pappas had been investigating two members of the organization prior to SCAT South's involvement. Three of the seized computers were processed under search warrants and revealed an extensive and far reaching mail theft, forgery and identity theft operation.

The follow-up investigation revealed that this criminal organization operated in the following jurisdictions: Wichita, Derby, Sedgwick County, Haysville, Reno County, Butler County and Harvey County.

Due in large part to Det. Bryant's and P. I. Pappas' attention to detail, these cases were compiled, coordinated and presented to the United States

Attorney for charging.

On Feb. 7, 2005, a federal indictment was drawn against three individuals for eight counts each of Identity Theft and Access Devices, resulting in a 24 count indictment against these suspects.

If it had not been for the work of these officers, supervisors, Det. Bryant, Det. Roger Williamson and P.I. Pappas, this group would still be operating today, and the losses to our community would be extensive.

This case is an excellent example of the positive working relationship between Field Services, Investigations and the United States Postal Service.

Subsequent analysis identified this forgery ring as being responsible for 157 forgeries, 18 burglaries, one robbery, 15 mail thefts and 79 larcenies.

In addition to the federal indictments, numerous suspects were charged in State court. This forgery ring had an estimated loss impact in our community of \$200,000.

Great work by all involved.

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## Suspicious character turns out to be a serial burglar

It was during the early morning hours of Feb. 10 when Officer Jesse Hancock, Patrol East traffic, was returning from CMF when he observed a suspicious character running through yards north of Kellogg near Sycamore Street.

He advised dispatch of the suspect description and directed officers to establish a perimeter.

Officer Hancock and other officers searched the area and found

the suspect hiding in an open garage. The suspect, who was identified as an active serial burglar, was arrested for trespassing inside the garage.

Officer Hancock observed a "Wichita Thunder" hockey jersey in a yard nearby. Upon searching the area, officers discovered a burglary that had just occurred at the Wichita Thunder office located

at the Ice Center, 505 W. Maple.

The suspect was charged with burglary, theft and trespass.

Lt. Barry VonFange, Burglary section, advised that the suspect may have been involved in more than 10 burglaries within the last few weeks. Officer Hancock's diligence, devotion to duty, and keen observation skills led to the apprehension of a serial burglar.

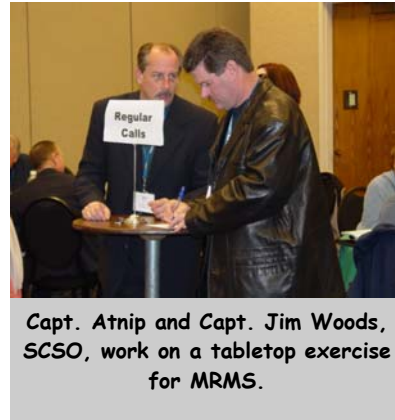
## Did You Know.....

During the month of February, WPD members received 45 CPRs that were generated internally and 33 that were generated externally.

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The Professional Standards Bureau opened three external complaints on Department members in February; a decrease of four compared to the previous month. There were 12 internal complaints filed against 12 Department employees in February. This was a decrease of two compared to the previous month.

Many City and County employees participated in a media workshop and tabletop exercise on Feb. 3, Public Health Emergency: BioTerrorism Infectious Disease.

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Field Services wrote 5,789 moving citations and 1,684 parking citations in February. They also made 110 DUI arrests.



Capt. Atnip and Capt. Jim Woods, SCSO, work on a tabletop exercise for MRMS.

On Feb. 25, officers from WPD and Agents from the KBI and FBI arrested Dennis L. Rader, 59, for the homicides related to BTK. He was arrested without incident.

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He was also implicated in two Sedgwick County cases.

The cases were presented to the District Attorney and he was charged with 10 counts of first-degree murder on March 1.

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Det. Kelly Mar sent out burglary prevention tips that were compiled by Burglary Section, to all the Beat Coordinators. The Beat Coordinators will include the tips in their monthly newsletters and pass them on to area Neighborhood Associations so they can be included in the Association newsletters.

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Lt. Jeff Weible worked with Officer

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Mike Lloyd to complete the grant application for the KDOT Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws mini-grant for \$24,000. On Feb. 28 they received notification that the Department was approved for the mini-grant, which will supplement the Juvenile Underage Drinking Group Education/Enforcement program (JUDGE).

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Officer Duane Crafton instructed the entire eighth grade class at Allison Middle School on "teens and alcohol." He utilized a video titled "The Truth About Drinking," and distributed educational and referral information.

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Property and Evidence destroyed 1,132 packages of drugs on February 2.

## Wichita police promote two Captains in February

John D. Speer was promoted to the rank of Captain on Feb. 9. His educational background includes a Bachelor's Degree in Management from Southwestern College and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Wichita State University.

"Capt. Speer ex-



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hibits the types of skills and abilities that the Department is looking for in its Command Staff," Chief Williams said.

Capt. Speer has been assigned to the Patrol South Bureau.

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Joe A. Dessenberger was promoted to the rank of Captain on Feb. 24.



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His educational background includes a Bachelor's degree from Friends University and a Master's degree in Criminal Justice from Wichita State University.

"Capt. Dessenberger has many outstanding leadership qualities and has exhibited them while serving as the City's Coordinator of Emergency Planning and Security," Chief Williams said.



## Officer's familiarity with beat helps identify robbery suspects

Officer Kevin Goebel, Patrol South, responded to a 911 call on Feb. 4 shortly after 11 p.m. A 74-year-old man called 911 to report he had been robbed at his residence in the 500 block of S. Market.

According to the victim, a female came to his door and he allowed her inside. After she came in, a male entered behind her.

The male suspect grabbed the victim from behind and forced him to the ground. Once they had him on the ground, the suspects went

through the victim's pockets taking \$3000, a cell phone and two wallets before leaving.

Officer Goebel began doing follow-up to see if he could determine the identities of the two suspects. Due to his knowledge of the residents in the apartment complex, and the people that frequent them, he was able to identify two possible suspects.

Officer Goebel contacted the robbery detectives and a pickup was issued. Officer Goebel began looking for both suspects and was

able to find both of them in one of the nearby apartments. They were both booked for robbery.



Recruits learn about crimes against children.

## Eight new Reserve Officers join Wichita Police Department

Eight new Reserve Officers joined the Wichita Police Department on February 15 after graduating from Reserve Recruit Training.

The Recruit Officers completed 14 weeks of training that started on Nov. 8, 2004, and received more than 200 hours of training.

The new Officers are:

Reserve Officer Karen Blank, Reserve Officer Michael Brown, Reserve Officer Todd Callaway, Reserve Officer Robert Dulohery, Jr.,

Reserve Officer Jaime Grief, Reserve Officer Ryan Huhman, Reserve Officer Nicholas Krug and Reserve Officer Hyunsung Song.

Each year Reserve Officers donate thousands of volunteer hours to the Wichita Police Department and help make our community a safer place for citizens and visitors.

**In 2004, Police Reserves  
donated around 8,000 hours  
to WPD**

## Officer acts quickly after walking up on Quik Trip robbery

Officer Eric Piotrowski pulled into the Quik Trip at 5602 E. Harry around 2:30 a.m. on Feb. 16 where he observed two female subjects run from the store yelling.

Upon approaching the front door of the business, a robber ran out armed with a shotgun. Officer Piotrowski confronted the suspect and a foot pursuit ensued. He chased the suspect for nearly two blocks before losing sight of him.

Officer Piotrowski was able to retrace his steps and locate the stolen money, the shotgun, and clothing belonging to the suspect. The suspect's getaway car was located near where Officer Piotrowski lost sight of the suspect. Officer Piotrowski wrote an affidavit for a search warrant for the suspect's car. The car was searched and additional evidence was located. On Feb. 23, a felony

warrant was drawn for the suspect on two counts of aggravated robbery and felon in possession of a firearm.

The suspect was arrested and is in custody awaiting judicial action. Officer Piotrowski demonstrated bravery and devotion to duty by confronting the armed suspect in the commission of a violent armed robbery.

## City of Wichita

Captain Dale Poe made WPD history when he sang to his wife Beth Harlenske during his retirement ceremony on Feb. 4, 2005.

### WPD history



## Pets in Crisis pilot project a success; soon to be expanded

Victims of domestic violence throughout the city will soon be able to seek shelter in a safe environment and not have to worry about the care of their pets, thanks to a new program initiated by Officer Judi Jones, Patrol North Beat Coordinator.

The "Pets in Crisis" program ran in the Patrol North Bureau throughout the month of February as a pilot project. The pilot was a success, so Executive Staff approved it for implementation city-wide. Officer Jones will soon be providing information to all Bureaus regarding the program.

It all started when Officer Jones' sister, Dr. K. Kelly Jones, who is a local veterinarian, attended an educational conference and learned about the connection

between domestic violence and animal abuse. She came up with the idea of forming a foster network for pets that live in homes where



domestic abuse is occurring. With the help of the YWCA Women's Crisis Center, a network of qualified foster homes was established.

Every year thousands of women are victims of domestic violence. Current statistics indicate that two-thirds of women refuse to leave or delay leaving because of the pet that they will have to leave behind.

These pets are an important source of stability and comfort for victims of domestic violence. Often after the victim has left, the pet becomes a new target for violence, usually as a means of continuing to control the victim.

The Pets in Crisis program currently has 12 foster homes and takes referrals from the YWCA Women's Shelter.

Officer Jones hopes that after opening up the program to all the Field Services Division, they will soon be able to open it up to other shelters in the city.